

Department of the Army
Pamphlet 600-3-14

Branch Code 14

AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY

Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC
1 August 1987

UNCLASSIFIED

Report Documentation Page		
Report Date 01/08/1987	Report Type N/A	Dates Covered (from... to) -
Title and Subtitle Air Defense Artillery Pamphlet 600-3-14		Contract Number
		Grant Number
		Program Element Number
Author(s)		Project Number
		Task Number
		Work Unit Number
Performing Organization Name(s) and Address(es) HQ Department of the Army Washington, DC		Performing Organization Report Number
Sponsoring/Monitoring Agency Name(s) and Address(es)		Sponsor/Monitor's Acronym(s)
		Sponsor/Monitor's Report Number(s)
Distribution/Availability Statement Approved for public release, distribution unlimited		
Supplementary Notes		
Abstract		
Subject Terms		
Report Classification unclassified	Classification of this page unclassified	
Classification of Abstract unclassified	Limitation of Abstract SAR	
Number of Pages 12		

SUMMARY of CHANGE

DA PAM 600-3-14
AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY

Not applicable.

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History. This publication has been organized to make it compatible with the Army electronic publishing database. No content has been changed.

Summary. Not applicable.

Applicability. Not applicable.

Proponent and exception authority.
Not applicable.

Interim changes. Not applicable.

Suggested Improvements. For further information, write:

The Office of the Air Defense Artillery
Proponent
ATTN: ATSA-AC-FP
Fort Bliss, Texas 79916-7004

Distribution. Not applicable.

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*This pamphlet supersedes DA Pam 600-3-14, April 1982.

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1. MISSION

Air Defense Artillery defends the third dimension of the battlefield — the airspace above the battlefield. With Air Defense Artillery's firepower dominating the skies, the maneuver forces can perform their ground-gaining operations without intervention from threat air forces. Air defenders' "high-tech" weapon systems have the punch needed to knock the most sophisticated enemy aircraft out of the sky.

If you are seeking an opportunity to be a leader in a combat arm, and at the same time develop skills in the employment of highly advanced weapon systems, pinning on Air Defense Artillery's cross cannons and missile insignia is a step into that future — a future which promises you challenging assignments, rapid career advancement and a chance to serve your country.



Figure 1. Mission

2. FORWARD AREA AIR DEFENSE/HIGH-TO MEDIUM-ALTITUDE AIR DEFENSE

No single Air Defense Artillery weapon can do the job of protecting ground forces against the various attack types and techniques employed by the enemy. A mix of complementary Air Defense Artillery weapon systems must be employed to be effective.

Generally, Air Defense Artillery weapon systems are divided into two categories: Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD) and High- to Medium-Altitude Air Defense (HIMAD). FAAD systems counter the enemy air threat in the forward area through a meshing of command and control, and gun and missile systems, HIMAD systems, Hawk and Patriot, are deployed to defend the theater or corps commander's high priority assets against hostile aircraft.

Air Defense Artillery forces perform their missions by striking the enemy as soon as possible; by pressuring the enemy with increased intensity of fires and diversity of weapons systems as he approaches the target area; and by keeping the enemy under attack so long as he constitutes a threat.



Figure 2. Forward Area Air Defense/High-To Medium-Altitude Air Defense

3. STINGER

A manportable, shoulder-fired missile system, Stinger is engineered to engage and destroy low-flying enemy aircraft. Stinger, which uses infrared homing and can engage approaching aircraft, has replaced the Redeye shoulder-fired missile system which was limited to firing only in a tail-chase mode.

4. CHAPARRAL

The Chaparral provides protection against low-flying helicopters, and propeller-driven and speed jet aircraft. It is employed to provide air defense of the division, theater and Army service area, and key airbases and installations. Often teamed with the Vulcan air defense gun, Chaparral's full-tracked chassis allows it to cross lakes, streams and rough terrain. An aggressive product improvement program has maintained Chaparral's reputation as one of the deadliest Air Defense Artillery weapon systems on the battlefield. A new forward-looking infrared radar has improved Chaparral's night vision, allowing it to fight effectively at night as well as in daytime. A platoon leader commands four Chaparral missile systems.



Figure 3. Chaparral

5. VULCAN

Designed to fight off low-flying aircraft, the Vulcan's rotating 6-barrel cannon fires at a rate of 3,000 rounds-per minute. The self-propelled version is mounted on a fully tracked armored personnel carrier. The towed version is standard equipment for Air Defense Artillery units attached to light divisions and airborne units. A second lieutenant assigned to a Vulcan platoon in a mechanized division will lead four Vulcans in support of a battalion-size combined arms team.



Figure 4. Vulcan

6. PATRIOT

Recently deployed to Europe, Patriot is the most sophisticated weapon system in the Army inventory. Highly mobile and capable of engaging multiple targets simultaneously, Patriot provides air defense against aircraft flying at medium to high altitudes. A product of a 15-year test program, the system has a high single-shot kill probability and can operate in an intense electronic countermeasure environment. Its high mobility allows it to move within 30 minutes after receiving a march order. Once it reaches its destination, Patriot can be set up within 45 minutes.



Figure 5. Patriot



Figure 6. Hawk

7. HAWK

The Hawk is a surface-to-air missile used to engage aircraft at low to medium altitudes. Deployed to protect theater and high-priority installations, Hawk battalions are on the alert at strategic locations around the world. Recent improvements have given Hawk increased intercept range, quicker reaction time, greater altitude and lethality and an electronic counter-counter-measure capability. The Hawk commander commands a highly mobile element in the forward combat area.

8. AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY SPECIALTY

The Air Defense Artillery Branch is made up of soldiers dedicated to the employment of Air Defense Artillery weapons against enemy aircraft and missile attacks in support of combined-arms land operations. Air Defense Artillery forces use gun and missile systems. Air Defense Artillery's pivotal role on the battlefield is acknowledged by strategist and tactician alike and the branch is accepted as a full partner in the combat arms brotherhood.

Air Defense Artillery officers lead and train soldiers and oversee the employment of Air Defense Artillery weapons in support of military combat operations. Duties peculiar to the specialty include:

- Command, direct and control operations of Air Defense Artillery units;
- Provide expertise on the employment of Air Defense Artillery forces at all staff levels;
- Coordinate airspace use over the battlefield; and
- Participate in the planning and development of doctrine, organization and equipment to support the missions assigned to Air Defense Artillery Units.

Air Defense Artillery officers also participate in other positions of great responsibility. They serve as special and general staff officers in military headquarters; as Air Defense Artillery instructors in service schools and military colleges; as members of advisory elements assigned to military missions or advisory groups in foreign countries; as advisors in Army Reserve and Army National Guard units; and as operations, research and development officers who deal with the development and procurement of Air Defense Artillery systems.

9. FORT BLISS — HOME OF AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY

Fort Bliss is located in El Paso, Texas, on the United States' southern border with Mexico. El Paso, at the southernmost tip of the Rocky Mountains, is a growing metropolis with approximately 500,000 inhabitants. Juarez, across the Rio Grande, has about one million residents.

Sprawling across more than 1.25 million acres of land in western Texas and southern New Mexico, Fort Bliss is the

Army's largest installation. Home of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, Fort Bliss provides training in air defense to over 20 allied countries each year.

10. AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY AROUND THE WORLD

The location of Air Defense Artillery battalions in the continental United States are indicated on the map below. Additionally, officers may be assigned to positions in divisional or separate brigade headquarters or the various branch and service schools.

Air Defense Artillery personnel may be assigned to overseas locations in Alaska, Hawaii, West Germany, Italy, Greece or South Korea.

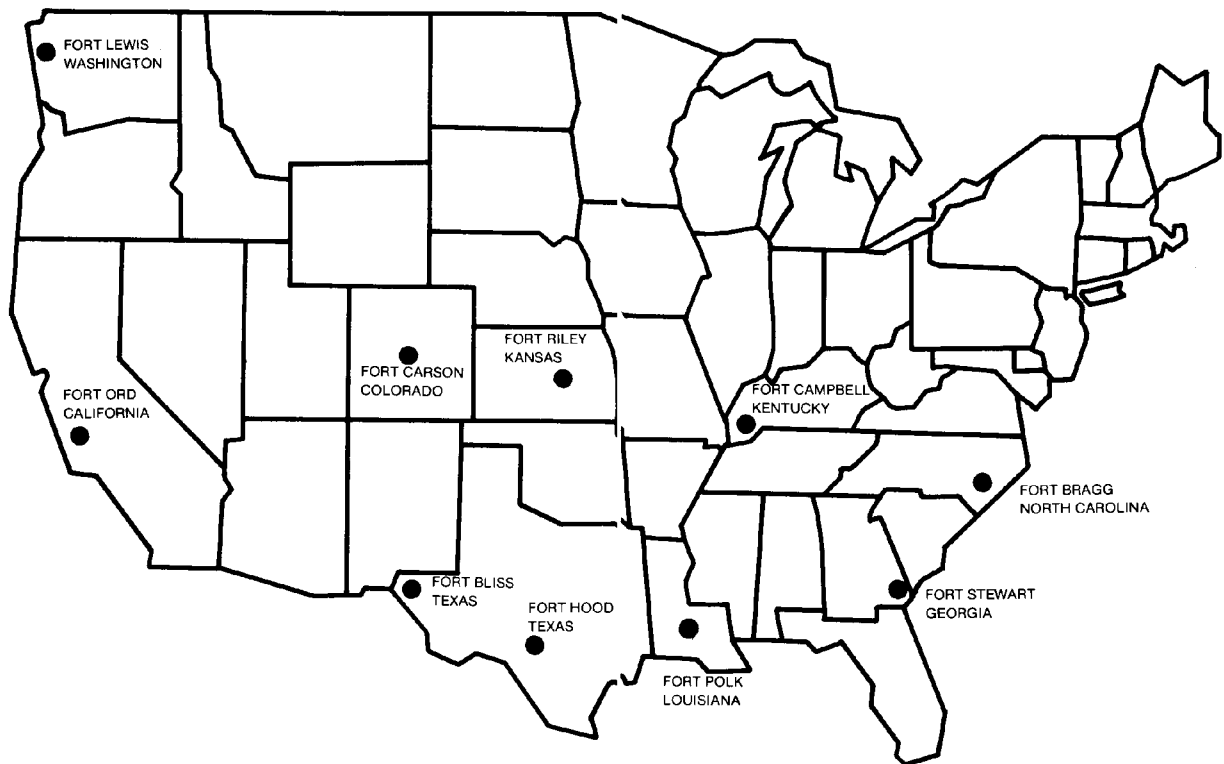


Figure 7. Air Defense Artillery Around The World

11. AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Major skill areas within Air Defense Artillery are:

- Air Defense Artillery Officer — General
- Forward Area Air Defense Artillery Officer
- Patriot Air Defense Artillery Officer
- Hawk Missile Air Defense Artillery Officer

Your initial branch training is in the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Bliss, Texas. The course is a mixture of a classroom instruction and field exercises on actual weapon systems. Subjects include: Air Defense Artillery organization; concepts and doctrine; weapons tactics and employment; infantry, armor and field artillery tactics; command and control systems; and management. A skill qualifications course will prepare you to serve as a leader in a Stinger, Vulcan, Chaparral, Hawk or Patriot unit.

Your first assignments will emphasize development of your basic skills and troop leadership in Air Defense Artillery units. As a platoon leader you will not only be responsible for managing some of the most sophisticated equipment in the Army inventory, but you will also be responsible for training and motivating your soldiers — bringing them to peak combat performance as a team.

As a second lieutenant you may supervise a complex command and control center, lead a Stinger section or lead a Chaparral, Vulcan, Hawk or Patriot platoon. Or you may be actively involved in the testing of new Air Defense Artillery weapons — perhaps one of the new forward area air defense systems that will operate at the forward edge of the battlefield.

After completing your initial assignment, normally between your third and fifth year of service, you will be assigned to Fort Bliss to attend the Air Defense Artillery Advanced Course to refine your leadership and tactical skills, and to prepare you to become an Air Defense Artillery battery commander.

The successful completion of the Officers Advanced Course and command of a battery are the criteria for branch qualification and are the stepping stones to a successful military career.

12. FIRST TO FIRE

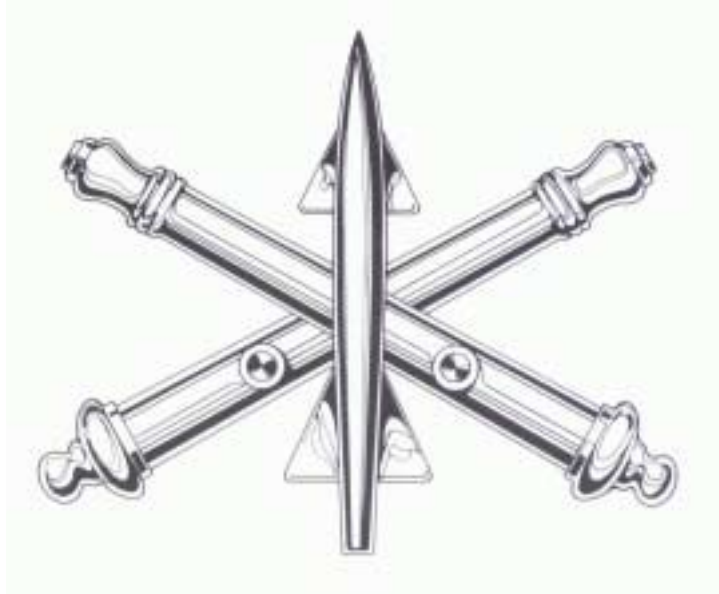


Figure 8. First to Fire

Freedom of action for the ground commander — freedom to maneuver without interference from enemy air attack — is the objective of U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery.

Air Defense Artillery is — as it always has been — in the vanguard of change, devising new air defense tactics and doctrine, fielding innovative weapon systems and shouldering combat responsibility for the third dimension of the battlefield — the skies,

Air Defense Artillery officers must be innovative, energetic and dedicated to ensure this freedom. Therein lies a great opportunity, the opportunity for personal and professional development while performing a vital role in the defense of our nation.

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PIN 051769-000

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ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING SYSTEM

OneCol FORMATTER .WIN32 Version 138

PIN: 051769-000

DATE: 02-13-01

TIME: 13:40:57

PAGES SET: 10

DATA FILE: C:\wincomp\p600-3-14.fil

DOCUMENT: DA PAM 600-3-14

DOC STATUS: NEW PUBLICATION